

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 16, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 14, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 22

Introduced by Assembly Member Torres

December 1, 2008

An act to amend Section 502 of the Penal Code, relating to computer hacking.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 22, as amended, Torres. Computer hacking: unauthorized access: punishment.

Existing law provides that any person who, among other things, knowingly accesses and without permission takes, copies, or makes use of any data from a computer, computer system, or computer network, as defined, or takes or copies any supporting documentation, whether existing or residing internal or external to a computer, computer system, or computer network, is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months, or 2 or 3 years, or by both that fine and imprisonment, or by a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

This bill would increase the fine for the felony conviction to an amount not exceeding ~~\$15,000~~ \$12,000.

Existing law provides that any person who knowingly and without permission provides or assists in providing a means of accessing a computer, computer system, or computer network, or who knowingly and without permission accesses or causes to be accessed a computer,

computer system, or computer network, is punishable as provided for a first offense not resulting in injury, a violation resulting in a victim expenditure of an amount not greater than \$5,000, or for a 2nd or subsequent violation, or for a violation resulting in a victim expenditure in an amount greater than \$5,000. A violation resulting in a victim expenditure in an amount greater than \$5,000 is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$10,000, or by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months, or 2 or 3 years, or by both that fine and imprisonment, or by a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

This bill would increase the fine for the felony conviction to an amount not exceeding ~~\$15,000~~ \$12,000.

Existing law provides that any person who knowingly and without permission uses the Internet domain name of another individual, corporation, or entity in connection with the sending of electronic mail, and who thereby damages or causes damage to a computer, computer system, or computer network, is punishable for a violation resulting in injury, or for a 2nd or subsequent violation, by a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

This bill would increase that fine to an amount not exceeding ~~\$15,000~~ \$12,000.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 502 of the Penal Code is amended to
2 read:
3 502. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this
4 section to expand the degree of protection afforded to individuals,
5 businesses, and governmental agencies from tampering,
6 interference, damage, and unauthorized access to lawfully created
7 computer data and computer systems. The Legislature finds and
8 declares that the proliferation of computer technology has resulted
9 in a concomitant proliferation of computer crime and other forms
10 of unauthorized access to computers, computer systems, and
11 computer data.
12 The Legislature further finds and declares that protection of the
13 integrity of all types and forms of lawfully created computers,

1 computer systems, and computer data is vital to the protection of
2 the privacy of individuals as well as to the well-being of financial
3 institutions, business concerns, governmental agencies, and others
4 within this state that lawfully utilize those computers, computer
5 systems, and data.

6 (b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have
7 the following meanings:

8 (1) "Access" means to gain entry to, instruct, or communicate
9 with the logical, arithmetical, or memory function resources of a
10 computer, computer system, or computer network.

11 (2) "Computer network" means any system that provides
12 communications between one or more computer systems and
13 input/output devices including, but not limited to, display terminals
14 and printers connected by telecommunication facilities.

15 (3) "Computer program or software" means a set of instructions
16 or statements, and related data, that when executed in actual or
17 modified form, cause a computer, computer system, or computer
18 network to perform specified functions.

19 (4) "Computer services" includes, but is not limited to, computer
20 time, data processing, or storage functions, or other uses of a
21 computer, computer system, or computer network.

22 (5) "Computer system" means a device or collection of devices,
23 including support devices and excluding calculators that are not
24 programmable and capable of being used in conjunction with
25 external files, one or more of which contain computer programs,
26 electronic instructions, input data, and output data, that performs
27 functions including, but not limited to, logic, arithmetic, data
28 storage and retrieval, communication, and control.

29 (6) "Data" means a representation of information, knowledge,
30 facts, concepts, computer software, computer programs, or
31 instructions. Data may be in any form, in storage media, or as
32 stored in the memory of the computer or in transit or presented on
33 a display device.

34 (7) "Supporting documentation" includes, but is not limited to,
35 all information, in any form, pertaining to the design, construction,
36 classification, implementation, use, or modification of a computer,
37 computer system, computer network, computer program, or
38 computer software, which information is not generally available
39 to the public and is necessary for the operation of a computer,

1 computer system, computer network, computer program, or
2 computer software.

3 (8) “Injury” means any alteration, deletion, damage, or
4 destruction of a computer system, computer network, computer
5 program, or data caused by the access, or the denial of access, to
6 legitimate users of a computer system, network, or program.

7 (9) “Victim expenditure” means any expenditure reasonably
8 and necessarily incurred by the owner or lessee to verify that a
9 computer system, computer network, computer program, or data
10 was or was not altered, deleted, damaged, or destroyed by the
11 access.

12 (10) “Computer contaminant” means any set of computer
13 instructions that are designed to modify, damage, destroy, record,
14 or transmit information within a computer, computer system, or
15 computer network without the intent or permission of the owner
16 of the information. They include, but are not limited to, a group
17 of computer instructions commonly called viruses or worms, that
18 are self-replicating or self-propagating and are designed to
19 contaminate other computer programs or computer data, consume
20 computer resources, modify, destroy, record, or transmit data, or
21 in some other fashion usurp the normal operation of the computer,
22 computer system, or computer network.

23 (11) “Internet domain name” means a globally unique,
24 hierarchical reference to an Internet host or service, assigned
25 through centralized Internet naming authorities, comprising a series
26 of character strings separated by periods, with the rightmost
27 character string specifying the top of the hierarchy.

28 (c) Except as provided in subdivision (h), any person who
29 commits any of the following acts is guilty of a public offense:

30 (1) Knowingly accesses and without permission alters, damages,
31 deletes, destroys, or otherwise uses any data, computer, computer
32 system, or computer network in order to either (A) devise or
33 execute any scheme or artifice to defraud, deceive, or extort, or
34 (B) wrongfully control or obtain money, property, or data.

35 (2) Knowingly accesses and without permission takes, copies,
36 or makes use of any data from a computer, computer system, or
37 computer network, or takes or copies any supporting
38 documentation, whether existing or residing internal or external
39 to a computer, computer system, or computer network.

1 (3) Knowingly and without permission uses or causes to be used
2 computer services.

3 (4) Knowingly accesses and without permission adds, alters,
4 damages, deletes, or destroys any data, computer software, or
5 computer programs which reside or exist internal or external to a
6 computer, computer system, or computer network.

7 (5) Knowingly and without permission disrupts or causes the
8 disruption of computer services or denies or causes the denial of
9 computer services to an authorized user of a computer, computer
10 system, or computer network.

11 (6) Knowingly and without permission provides or assists in
12 providing a means of accessing a computer, computer system, or
13 computer network in violation of this section.

14 (7) Knowingly and without permission accesses or causes to be
15 accessed any computer, computer system, or computer network.

16 (8) Knowingly introduces any computer contaminant into any
17 computer, computer system, or computer network.

18 (9) Knowingly and without permission uses the Internet domain
19 name of another individual, corporation, or entity in connection
20 with the sending of one or more electronic mail messages, and
21 thereby damages or causes damage to a computer, computer
22 system, or computer network.

23 (d) (1) Any person who violates any of the provisions of
24 paragraph (1), (2), (4), or (5) of subdivision (c) is punishable by
25 a fine not exceeding ~~fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000)~~ *twelve*
26 *thousand dollars (\$12,000)*, or by imprisonment in the state prison
27 for 16 months, or two or three years, or by both that fine and
28 imprisonment, or by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars
29 (\$5,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one
30 year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

31 (2) Any person who violates paragraph (3) of subdivision (c)
32 is punishable as follows:

33 (A) For the first violation that does not result in injury, and
34 where the value of the computer services used does not exceed
35 four hundred dollars (\$400), by a fine not exceeding five thousand
36 dollars (\$5,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding
37 one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

38 (B) For any violation that results in a victim expenditure in an
39 amount greater than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or in an injury,
40 or if the value of the computer services used exceeds four hundred

1 dollars (\$400), or for any second or subsequent violation, by a fine
2 not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by imprisonment
3 in the state prison for 16 months, or two or three years, or by both
4 that fine and imprisonment, or by a fine not exceeding five
5 thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not
6 exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

7 (3) Any person who violates paragraph (6) or (7) of subdivision
8 (c) is punishable as follows:

9 (A) For a first violation that does not result in injury, an
10 infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars
11 (\$1,000).

12 (B) For any violation that results in a victim expenditure in an
13 amount not greater than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or for a
14 second or subsequent violation, by a fine not exceeding five
15 thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not
16 exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

17 (C) For any violation that results in a victim expenditure in an
18 amount greater than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), by a fine not
19 exceeding ~~fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000)~~ *twelve thousand*
20 *dollars (\$12,000)*, or by imprisonment in the state prison for 16
21 months, or two or three years, or by both that fine and
22 imprisonment, or by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars
23 (\$5,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one
24 year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

25 (4) Any person who violates paragraph (8) of subdivision (c)
26 is punishable as follows:

27 (A) For a first violation that does not result in injury, a
28 misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding five thousand
29 dollars (\$5,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding
30 one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

31 (B) For any violation that results in injury, or for a second or
32 subsequent violation, by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars
33 (\$10,000), or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one
34 year, or in the state prison, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

35 (5) Any person who violates paragraph (9) of subdivision (c)
36 is punishable as follows:

37 (A) For a first violation that does not result in injury, an
38 infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars
39 (\$1,000).

1 (B) For any violation that results in injury, or for a second or
2 subsequent violation, by a fine not exceeding ~~fifteen thousand~~
3 ~~dollars (\$15,000)~~ *twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000)*, or by
4 imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both
5 that fine and imprisonment.

6 (e) (1) In addition to any other civil remedy available, the owner
7 or lessee of the computer, computer system, computer network,
8 computer program, or data who suffers damage or loss by reason
9 of a violation of any of the provisions of subdivision (c) may bring
10 a civil action against the violator for compensatory damages and
11 injunctive relief or other equitable relief. Compensatory damages
12 shall include any expenditure reasonably and necessarily incurred
13 by the owner or lessee to verify that a computer system, computer
14 network, computer program, or data was or was not altered,
15 damaged, or deleted by the access. For the purposes of actions
16 authorized by this subdivision, the conduct of an unemancipated
17 minor shall be imputed to the parent or legal guardian having
18 control or custody of the minor, pursuant to the provisions of
19 Section 1714.1 of the Civil Code.

20 (2) In any action brought pursuant to this subdivision the court
21 may award reasonable attorney's fees.

22 (3) A community college, state university, or academic
23 institution accredited in this state is required to include
24 computer-related crimes as a specific violation of college or
25 university student conduct policies and regulations that may subject
26 a student to disciplinary sanctions up to and including dismissal
27 from the academic institution. This paragraph shall not apply to
28 the University of California unless the Board of Regents adopts a
29 resolution to that effect.

30 (4) In any action brought pursuant to this subdivision for a
31 willful violation of the provisions of subdivision (c), where it is
32 proved by clear and convincing evidence that a defendant has been
33 guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice as defined in subdivision (c)
34 of Section 3294 of the Civil Code, the court may additionally award
35 punitive or exemplary damages.

36 (5) No action may be brought pursuant to this subdivision unless
37 it is initiated within three years of the date of the act complained
38 of, or the date of the discovery of the damage, whichever is later.

39 (f) This section shall not be construed to preclude the
40 applicability of any other provision of the criminal law of this state

1 which applies or may apply to any transaction, nor shall it make
2 illegal any employee labor relations activities that are within the
3 scope and protection of state or federal labor laws.

4 (g) Any computer, computer system, computer network, or any
5 software or data, owned by the defendant, that is used during the
6 commission of any public offense described in subdivision (c) or
7 any computer, owned by the defendant, which is used as a
8 repository for the storage of software or data illegally obtained in
9 violation of subdivision (c) shall be subject to forfeiture, as
10 specified in Section 502.01.

11 (h) (1) Subdivision (c) does not apply to punish any acts which
12 are committed by a person within the scope of his or her lawful
13 employment. For purposes of this section, a person acts within the
14 scope of his or her employment when he or she performs acts
15 which are reasonably necessary to the performance of his or her
16 work assignment.

17 (2) Paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) does not apply to penalize
18 any acts committed by a person acting outside of his or her lawful
19 employment, provided that the employee's activities do not cause
20 an injury, as defined in paragraph (8) of subdivision (b), to the
21 employer or another, or provided that the value of supplies or
22 computer services, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (b),
23 which are used does not exceed an accumulated total of one
24 hundred dollars (\$100).

25 (i) No activity exempted from prosecution under paragraph (2)
26 of subdivision (h) which incidentally violates paragraph (2), (4),
27 or (7) of subdivision (c) shall be prosecuted under those paragraphs.

28 (j) For purposes of bringing a civil or a criminal action under
29 this section, a person who causes, by any means, the access of a
30 computer, computer system, or computer network in one
31 jurisdiction from another jurisdiction is deemed to have personally
32 accessed the computer, computer system, or computer network in
33 each jurisdiction.

34 (k) In determining the terms and conditions applicable to a
35 person convicted of a violation of this section the court shall
36 consider the following:

37 (1) The court shall consider prohibitions on access to and use
38 of computers.

39 (2) Except as otherwise required by law, the court shall consider
40 alternate sentencing, including community service, if the defendant

- 1 shows remorse and recognition of the wrongdoing, and an
- 2 inclination not to repeat the offense.

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